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August 2001

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Live and Direct with PRIME MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON

Over 1,000 people packed the Jamaican Canadian Centre on Thursday, April 19, 2001, to hear the Rt. Hon. P.J. Patterson, Prime Minister of Jamaica.

Prime Minister Patterson, who was in Canada to attend the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City and to open the new offices of the Jamaican Consulate General on Eglinton Avenue East, used the opportunity to meet with Jamaicans and bring them up-to-date on recent happenings in Jamaica.

Prior to his *Live and Direct*



Prime Minister P.J. Patterson with members of the JCA board at "Live and Direct"

Robertson, High Commissioner His Excellency Raymond Wolfe, and Consul General A.B. Stewart Stephenson, toured the JCA Centre and met with the Board of Directors.

In a wide-ranging speech, Prime Minister Patterson touched on many topics including the economy, crime and police efforts to combat the problem, the prison system, Amnesty International and inner-city communities.

Continued on page 9

presentation, the Prime Minister and his party which included Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. the Hon. Paul

Election Update

On Saturday, May 26, the JCA elected a new slate of officers. Valarie Steele was elected President; former Public Relations Officer, Claudette Cameron-Stewart, was elected Vice-President; Adaoma Patterson, was

acclaimed PRO; Pauline Reid was acclaimed Membership Chair; Maxine Adams returns as Treasurer and Leon Sutherland was acclaimed Building Chair.

QUARTERLY MEETING

Sunday
August 26, 2001
2:00 - 4:00 pm

Jamaican Canadian Centre
995 Arrow Road

For further information call
JCA at (416) 746-5772

EDITORIAL

As we are all aware, our community is once again in crisis with the 13th death of a young Black male within the past three months. Many people inside and outside of the Black community keep asking the question why does this continue to happen? Of course there are no simple, one line answers to this problem. We can and do site a variety of factors such as single parent families, lack of recreational activities and community support, overpolicing, systemic racism, all of which are relevant factors. The question is, how did we ever reach the point that some of our young men both here and in Jamaica place so little value on their lives and the lives of others? Are we teaching our children to love and value themselves, do they understand that they are part of a history not only of struggle but also of triumph? Are we teaching them the importance of giving back to their community and that they have a responsibility to be their brothers and sisters keepers? Do we teach them to speak out against injustice and fight for what they believe in with their votes and not with a gun? Do we involve them in

organizations and churches where they can have a sense of belonging and see that they are connected to a larger family? There are lessons to be learned from the young men that have died and the ones that killed them. What is clear is that our community leaders, academics, organizations, churches and families must seek to understand the lessons and work together not only in reacting when issues become crises, but in implementing a preventative strategy. This issue can only be solved with all of us working together.

On July 11, leaders of the Black community including the JCA's President Valarie Steele, met with Superintendent Keith Forde to discuss how to address this issue. The JCA is trying to address the role of our youth within the community and the Organization because the strength and future of both lies in their active participation. A conference dealing with issues of concern for Black youth, particularly violence, is being organized as part of the commitment made by past President Herman Stewart. Look for details about this event in upcoming issues.

Blacks & Jews IN DIALOGUE

The Black/Jewish Dialogue invites you to come out and participate

Sessions are held monthly

PLEASE CALL FOR DATES AND LOCATIONS

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Claudette Cameron-Stewart, Vice-President
Maxine Adams, Treasurer
Errol Bonner, Acting Executive Director
Hector Gray, Executive Secretary
Pauline Reid, Membership Chair
Adaoma Patterson, Public Relations Chair
Barbara Thomas, Fundraising Chair
Leon Sutherland, Building Chair
Barrington Morrison, Education Chair
Pam Powell, Women's Committee Representative
Patrick Chambers, Youth Committee Chair
Ruth Morris, Seniors Group Representative

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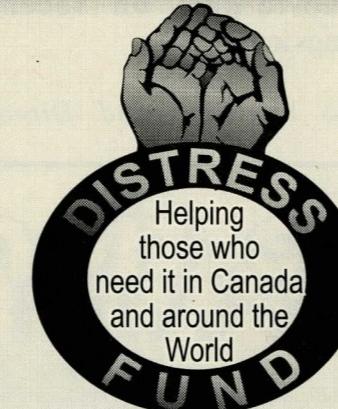
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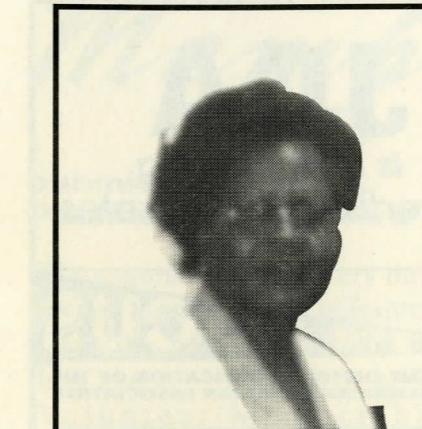
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President's REPORT

By Valarie Steele

Board of Directors, we wish the Golf Committee great success at these events.

The re-pavement of the parking lot is almost completed and as you will see, it is beautiful. The Toronto Raptors, through the efforts of Mr. Byron Carter, has agreed to set-up a basketball court and hold clinics at the JCA Centre. They will supply and maintain the equipment for this endeavour and this will be an excellent magnet to get young people, especially young black men, to the JCA Centre. Thanks to both Byron and the Raptors Organization.

Our car raffle is just around the corner and we are getting prepared so that we can launch the raffle early next year. We are currently seeking prizes and if you can be of any assistance in getting prizes, please do not hesitate to call us at (416) 746-5772 and offer your help. Also, check out our web-site www.jcassoc.co, for the latest updates.

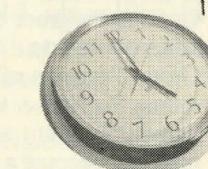
Once again we opened our doors to the community on Monday, August 6, 2001. CHRY 105.5 broadcasted live from the JCA Centre from 10:00a.m. - 10:00 p.m. and the attendance was very good. **THANK YOU** to CHRY and all our volunteers for their effort in making this day successful. **THANK YOU** to all the people who came out in large numbers and made this day very successful. We couldn't have done it without you. This is the 3rd year that we have had this open house at the JCA Centre and we will be doing it again next year so please put it on your calendar.

JCA's "Yes-We-Can" Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday August 18, 2001 at Cardinal Golf Club, 2740 Highway 9 at 1:00 p.m. This will be followed by a Dinner and Dance Reception/Trophy presentation at 6:00 p.m. at the JCA Centre. Tickets for this reception is \$20 per person and we look forward to seeing you there. On behalf of the

positions on this round of violence and a number of meetings and the youth conference on violence that we have been planning for some time is now firmly placed on the front burner. The prominence of the JCA in the community causes many people to call on us to voice our opinions on situations as they occur. We must respond on behalf of the community and we covet your support and encourage everyone to work with the Police in order to solve these crimes and help prevent any more.

We look forward to seeing you at our quarterly meeting on Sunday, August 26, 2001.

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The more precious your spare time becomes, the more wisely it should be spent. We've designed programs to accommodate the time commitments of Big Brothers with the needs of boys - Little Brothers.

General Program

2 hours a week or 4 hours bi-weekly.
Be a friend to a Little Brother by sharing hobbies, recreation and everyday activities together.

Group Program

4 hours, once a month, September to June.
Pick up a few Little Brothers and enjoy pre-arranged, pre-paid activities with other Big and Little Brothers, then return the Little Brothers home.

School Program - for Women & Men

1 hour a week, September to June.
Women and men can volunteer in the School Program. Share activities with a Little Brother on school property. Ideal for the business community and for college & university students.

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BIG BROTHERS

BIG BROTHERS

Big Brothers began in New York City in 1904 and in Toronto in 1913. Since 1913 over 112,000 boys across Toronto have benefited from the program.

Big Brothers of Toronto need more male role models (Big Brothers) from the Black Community to be a friend to a boy (Little Brother). Many men have found great satisfaction enjoying hobbies, sports and everyday activities with their Little Brother. Big Brother Phillip Reid is a friend to his Little Brother, Shavar. Shavar enjoys his time with Phillip and says, "I hope our happiness continues." In Focus spoke with Phillip on his thoughts about being a Big Brother.

IF What is a Big Brother?
That's a good question. You are not really playing a father role, but can show Little Brothers that a total stranger can care for them. There are good people out there who just want to help.

IF Why did you decide to become a BB?

PR As a means of giving back to the community.

IF What are some of the things you do with your Little Brother Shavar?
I see him every two weeks. You name it; we've pretty much done it. It really is a pleasure doing it. Unless you become involved with Big Brothers and become

associated with someone who is not related to you, you really don't know the impact you have on someone else's life.

IF Is there a financial cost to being a Big Brother?

PR There is no cost initially, however based on activities you choose to do with your little Brother, then there are related costs.

IF What benefits do you get from being a Big Brother?

PR Shavar's Mom, Marcia always thanks me. The biggest benefit will be when Shavar gets to 18 and really realizes his benefit and say that special "thank you".

IF Being a Big Brother is not your "real" job, what do you do?

PR I am a Security Officer working towards becoming a Metro Police Officer. I also volunteer with the

Etobicoke Distress Centre. I really like it. There is no way you will be able to help everyone who calls, but there is always the one person that you are able to help, which makes a difference.

Would you encourage other black males to become Big Brothers? Why?

Without a doubt! When you realize that recent events, shootings and killings, the kids of the future are witnessing these events; you can be a role model to let the Little Brothers know that it does not have to be this way.

What message would you like to send to our readers?

Big Brothers is really KIDS stuff. You gotta be there for the kids and you won't regret it!

Cal Lorimer of Big Brothers of Toronto advises In Focus that there is a waiting list of approximately 150 boys, of which 40% are from diverse ethnic communities. Of the 150, more than 30 boys are from the Black Community. Brothers are linked as close to home as possible so one does not have to worry about travelling great distances to get together.

Cal also mentioned that there are 3 programs to choose from:

General Program of 2 hours per week or 4 hours bi-weekly,
Group Program of 4 hours once per month during September to June
School Program where women as well as men can become a friend to a boy for 1 hour per week September to June.

For more information on Big Brothers, call 416-925-8981 or visit their website at www.bigbroto.com

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Volunteers are needed

at the
Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) Centre

to establish a Scout Movement. The Scout Movement will provide stimulating indoor and outdoor programs for young people from 5-26 years. Scouts Canada and members of the Canadian Armed Forces will provide the necessary training and guidance in operating the group. For further information, please contact

BARRY MORRISON at the JCA,
416-746-5772



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39
YEARS OF

**SERVICE
and
COMMITMENT**

Membership Report

submitted by **Pauline Reid, Membership Chair**

The summer has been very busy for the Membership Committee. Over the past few months we have planned: Volunteer/Membership Appreciation Evening, the Annual Picnic and the Flag Raising Ceremony.



JCA President Valarie Steele With Medal Winners At JCA Picnic in Niagara Falls

The Appreciation Evening was a huge success with over 200 members participating in various activities. The highlight of the evening was having one of our Past Presidents from the 1970's, **Mr. Kanute Cato** and his family visiting from Jamaica. It was truly an emotional evening for Mr. Cato, and in his words "a dream come true".

GOLF TOURNAMENT ATTRACTS SIGNIFICANT CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

On behalf of the Jamaican Canadian Association, the volunteers of the JCA golf tournament committee extend their sincere thanks and appreciation to the following sponsors of this year's JCA Charity Golf Classic Tournament, held August 18, 2001 at the Cardinal Golf Club.

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The Picnic was once again a great success with over 250 members and their families attending. I would like to thank all the volunteers who assisted with the Picnic and very special thanks to the two Corporations

who donated items for the Picnic, **Mr. Ferriman, Maple Leaf Gardens Ltd. and Mr. Giraldi, Peek Frean Bakery.**

2001 has been declared the International Year of the Volunteer by the United Nations. "In 2001, Canadians will mark the International Year of the Volunteers, a time to celebrate the achievements of Canada's everyday heroes." The Jamaican Canadian Association has many heroes who work tirelessly for the Organization and the Community and we want to say thank you.

September is "Membership Drive Month" at the JCA. During this period we would like to sign up at least 200 new members. We encourage all members to tell your friends and relatives about the Association, invite them to an event, and show them the wonderful things we do. As you know, only through strength we will achieve unity. We have several committees that you can get involved in: **Building, Education, Fundraising, Public Relations, Membership, Women, Seniors and Youth.** Bring your expertise, energy and ideas to any of our committees. Get involved! Be a part of the JCA family. As part of membership month we are inviting you to attend an **Appreciation Evening, Saturday, October 20, 2001 from 4:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.**

For those who have not yet done so, we are reminding you to send in your membership dues it is important!

Just a reminder that the Visitation Group is still active and we are asking members to advise us of anyone who is ill, needs to be visited or has recently passed away.

WOMEN IN POWER

**TAKEN FROM: SOME BLACK WOMEN
PROFILES OF BLACK WOMEN IN CANADA**

Christina Jenkins Howson

Christina Jenkins Howson was born in Chatham, Ontario in 1897 to Michael and Elizabeth De Groat. She co-founded the Black paper entitled *Dawn of Tomorrow* with her husband James F. Jenkins. The paper was first published in London, Ontario in 1923 and was believed to be the most successful of all Black newspapers. Upon her husband's death in 1931, Howson assumed full editorial responsibilities. By 1950, the local newspaper was circulating beyond Canadian borders. The fact that Howson edited a highly successful Black paper was an incredible achievement for a woman at the time. However, her accomplishments went far beyond her career.

Howson was a devoted humanitarian, active in community and church affairs. When asked to consider running for the office of alderperson, she graciously declined saying she did not wish to deprive her family of her care and consideration. Howson had remarried but found herself widowed again in 1955. She was faced with the task of working as the editor and raising nine children. She accepted the challenge and raised a family who had a love for education and were also active in the community.

In 1967, Howson passed away. At the time this article was published in 1993, the London-based paper was still being published periodically by family members.



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NATIONAL UNITY NEEDED FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

August 5, 2001: Jamaicans will have to come together as a family in order for the country to develop.

"National development without national unity is absurdity. It is illogical; it is meaningless," declared Rev. Gene Archer as he delivered the sermon celebrating the 39th Anniversary of Jamaica's Independence at the St. Michael and All Angels Church in Toronto, Canada.

"A nation is only as strong as the families that make up that nation," said Rev. Archer to a packed church. "Nations rise and fall on the strength or weakness of their families. Success is never due to one thing or one person only; it takes a number of them merging into one perfect whole."

Rev. Archer, a graduate of Camperdown High School and Jamaica Theological Seminary who has been living in Canada for the past 25 years, said the Jamaican family will succeed if it follows certain principles. "Always exude magnetism. Never be afraid to try new things. Amateurs built the ark, professionals built the Titanic."

Jamaica's Consul General to Toronto, Mr. A.B. Stewart Stephenson, read Prime Minister P.J. Patterson's Independence Message. He also thanked the participants and those in attendance for sharing in the celebrations of Independence. President of the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA), Mrs. Valarie Steele, led the congregation in reciting the National Pledge.

Other participating clergy included Rev. Jeff Brown, rector of St. Michael and All Angels Church, Bishop Dr. J. Spencer of the Church of God Deliverance Centre and Pastor Kenneth Campbell of the Downsview Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Musical selections came from soloist Donovan Gibson, Joint Heirs which performed in reggae and Simone Carpio who received a standing ovation for her powerful rendition of the "Alabaster Box," while Aadin Church and Yanique Williams sang the Canadian and Jamaican National Anthems.

Earlier in the day, Consul General Stephenson, JCA President Mrs. Steele, Member of Provincial Parliament Alvin Curling and Deputy Mayor for Toronto Case Ootes, shared in raising the Jamaican flag at City Hall. The Consul General read the Prime Minister's Emancipation Message. The flag will remain flying over the city for one week.

Carolyn Goulbourne-Warren
JIS Information Officer

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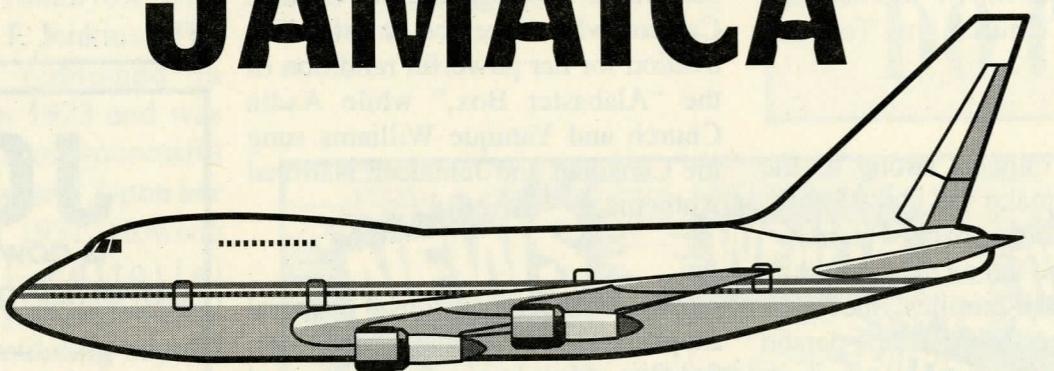
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TID BITS

By Alton Telfer

It appears as if it was just a short time ago we stashed away our winter apparels, did the spring cleaning in preparation for summer. Unfortunately, summer did not arrive early this year. I can remember about mid-June I was reaching back for my winter coat and saying to myself 'summer, what is taking you so long.' Shortly thereafter she came in July. Still, I am thankful, better late than never.

I am sure that at this time most if not all members know that JCA has a new President and guess what? She is all woman, none other than Mrs. Valerie Steele, the former Vice-President. I would like to use this medium to not only congratulate her, but to welcome her arrival into this portfolio. I think that she is able and capable among other things.

It is time to pay tribute to the Immediate Past President, Herman Stewart. His five years of stewardship has taken us to a plateau that we have never been before. I need not mention in details his many accomplishments because you may say 'why preach to the converted as we are cognizant of all those details.' I served on the Board during the re-zoning crisis and there were times when it appeared as if we were losing the battle and I know that Herman had many sleepless nights over this ordeal and also the funding issue regarding the renovation of the Centre. I wish him well in whatever new endeavor he may pursue. Not-with-standing I feel sure he will continue to make his contribution as a member on the Board.

Let me now take you to Jamaica. Did you hear about the many riots that erupted during the past few weeks? Some say they are politically motivated. A general election is slated for 2002 so I tend to believe this

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analogy. Whatever the reasons for such behaviour, there are serious repercussions for the citizens and the country. Here is one example. The University of Waterloo with the support of the St. Thomas (Jamaica) Healthcare Organization, arranged to send one of their professors, Dr. Murchison Callendar and four students to work at F.I.S.H. Eye Clinic in Papine, Kingston and the Princess Margaret Hospital in St. Thomas. They were to participate in the St. Thomas sponsored eye clinic and work for a week testing patients eyes and fitting glasses free of charge. They were scheduled to leave Toronto on July 11, but the University cancelled the trip the day before when news broke that another riot flared and people were getting killed. Once again the most needy in our society lost out. Are we shooting ourselves in the foot?

Let us remember Jamaica in our prayers and pray for peace and stability. To you and your family, have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Live and Direct with

PRIME MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON

Continued

sports facilities islandwide.

On the subject of crime, Mr. Patterson noted that the problem was not confined to Jamaica, but he admitted that the levels are too high. There is now improved training of police officers and the Jamaica Constabulary Force has established a Citizens Charter.

He acknowledged the contributions of Jamaicans living overseas not only to Jamaica but also to their adopted homeland. "The overwhelming majority of Jamaicans continue to make a meaningful contribution to economic and social life here and elsewhere in the professions, in the factories, in science and technology, in sports and in music and by so doing bring honour to our name."

Although half of us live outside Jamaica, he said, this does not separate us from our common ground which is our love for our country and our abiding faith in its future.

A lively round of question and answers followed the Prime Minister's presentation.

Contact: Carolyn Goulbourne-Warren

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QUARTERLY MEETING

Sunday
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2:00 - 4:00 pm

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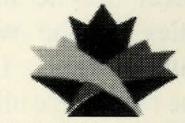
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LIFE LESSONS FROM BOOKS & MOVIES

Black Cowboy Wild Horses. A True story Julius Lester & Jerry Pinkney

My love for the movies has endured for years and years and in Jamaica I saw every John Wayne movie and loved the tales of the wild west. Childhood and innocence. Little did I realize that the tales were all based on lies and that I was enjoying stories of the decimation of the Indigenous peoples of America. As a school teacher, I conduct parent teacher interviews and at the end of one interview, a white parent said to me, "Do you know the stories of the Black cowboys?"

He could see my surprise and so he brought me two copies of the story of the Black cowboys. The scales fell off my eyes and I am no more ignorant of the enjoyable lies that Hollywood spread. This book will inform you. The true story of Bob Lemmons an

extraordinary cowboy who could track wild horses and tame them is presented in a beautifully illustrated book and is a must for your library of books on the scattered seeds of Africa. Black men were wonderful cowboys, forget those old John Wayne movies!

Have you seen: '**O Brother Where Art Thou?**' this film is now in the revue cinemas. Every Black person should see this to see how life was in the 50s. The film depicts life for Blacks on the prison farms during the 1950's and sadly for many poor Blacks in the U.S. conditions have changed little. The film highlights the importance of education as the key to a better life. If our children

are not directed very early in life then we can expect to see more of the legacy of poverty as our boys join the criminal side of life. It is too late when they are turbulent teenagers. Help is needed during the early years from birth to six or seven years of age. Go see this movie and ask yourself, 'Can I make a difference in the life of one child?'

Phyllis Walker, Educator, Storyteller & Enamelist
B.A.; B.Ed.; M.Ed.; ESL/D Specialist
Principals' Qualification
Human Being



UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
JCA's Yes-We-Can Golf Tournament	Saturday, August 18	1:00 pm	Cardinal Golf Club
Golf Tournament Reception/Trophy Presentation	Saturday, August 18	6:00 pm	JCA Centre
Quarterly Membership Meeting	Sunday, August 26	2:00 pm	JCA Centre
Membership Drive Month	September		
Annual Seniors Dinner	Sunday, September 23	1:00 pm	JCA Centre
Eva Smith Bursary Ceremony	Friday, October 5	7:00 pm	JCA Members Lounge
United Way Brunch	TBA	1:00 pm	JCA Centre
Round Table Discussion: Free Trade Agreement of the Americas	Monday, October 26	TBA	TBA

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